

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W  
----- 093903 /54

P R 221508Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRITY 1048  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A DAMASCUS 8731

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG  
SUBJECT: SYRIA AND EGYPT ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF UNIFIED POLITICAL  
COMMAND

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENTS ASAD AND SADAT HAVE AGREED IN MODERATELY  
PHRASED JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND.  
END SUMMARY.

2. PRES. ASAD COMPLETED FOUR-DAY VISIT TO CAIRO DEC. 21  
AND ISSUED STATEMENT WITH PRES. SADAT THAT TWO SIDES  
HAD AGREED TO FORM UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND.  
(FULL TEXT IN FBIS) UPON HIS RETURN TO DAMASCUS FONMIN  
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KHADDAM DELIVERED PRESS STATEMENT EVENING DEC. 21 IN WHICH HE  
DESCRIBED SYRO-EGYPTIAN UNITY AS "NEW FORMULA FOR  
RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, A FORUMLA WHICH EXCEEDS  
ALL PREVIOUS FORMULAS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."  
KHADDAM CLAIMED NEW FORMULA COMPATIBLE WITH CAR AND ALSO  
WITH PREVIOUS MOVES TOWARDS UNITY BETWEEN SYRIA AND JORDAN. KHADDAM

ADMITTED RESIGNATION OF ISRAELI GOVT. COULD AFFECT CONVENING MEPC, BUT IT WAS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. FONMIN OBSERVED THAT PRES. SADAT WILL BE VISITING SYRIA BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON RUMORED ASAD-SADAT-QADDAFI MEETING.

3. AL-BAATH FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT CAIRO TALKS USEFUL IN PREPARING FOUDNATION FOR EITHER "JUST WAR" OR "JUST PEACE." EDITORIAL STATED THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT REJECT PRESENT STATE OF "NO PEACE, NOWAR" IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. SYRO-EGYPTIAN AND SYRO-JORDANIAN UNITY MARK PROGRESS TOWARD OVERALL UNITY OF CONFRONTATION REGION AND A MEANS OF TIGHTENING CIRCLE AROUND ISRAEL PRIOR TO "ADOPTION OF FINAL DECISION ON ONE OF TWO OPTIONS -- JUST PEACE OR JUST WAR."

4. COMMENT:

COMMUNIQUE AMBIGUOUS ON WHEATHER ARABS WOULD ATTEND GENEVA IN SINGLE DELGATION OR SEPARATELY. FAHMY'S PRESS STATEMENT DENYING THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT WILL ATTEND AS SINGLE DELEGATION AND EXPRESSING PREFERENCE FOR SEPARATE DELEGATIONS IS IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION TO STATEMENT BY PRES. ASAD TO EGYPTIAN RADIO ON EVE OF HIS VISIT THAT HE PREFERRED UNIFIED DELEGATION. COMMUNIQUE STRUCK MODERATE TONE, NOT ONCE REFERRING TO "ZIONIST ENEMY" OR "IMPERIALIMS". SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN POSTURE OF UNITY APPARENTLY ALSO INTENDED FOR REGIONAL CONSUMPTION; REFERENCE TO RABAT DECISION SUGGESTS REVIVAL OF FUND-RAISING DRIVE AMONG PENINSULA STATES. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT SERIES OF REPORTS FROM JOINT  
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COMMITTEES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING SYRO-EYGPTEAN UNITY. WHILE THERE IS MUCH IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, OUR INITIAL INTERPRETATION IS THAT IT IS A SERIOUS CALL FOR PURSUING POLITICAL ROUTE AND STATEMENT OF AN INITIAL BARGAINING POSITION.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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